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THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

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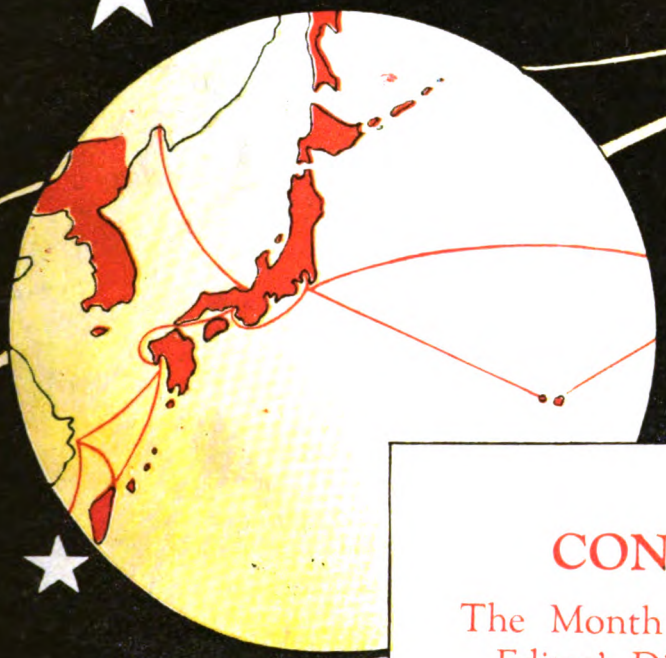

A REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY OF THINGS JAPANESE

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The Month in Progress :— Editor's Diary

The Japanese Government's Policy for the Coming Year

Baron Shidehara's Speech

A History of the Japanese Stage

Frogs in Japan, By Yaichiro Okada

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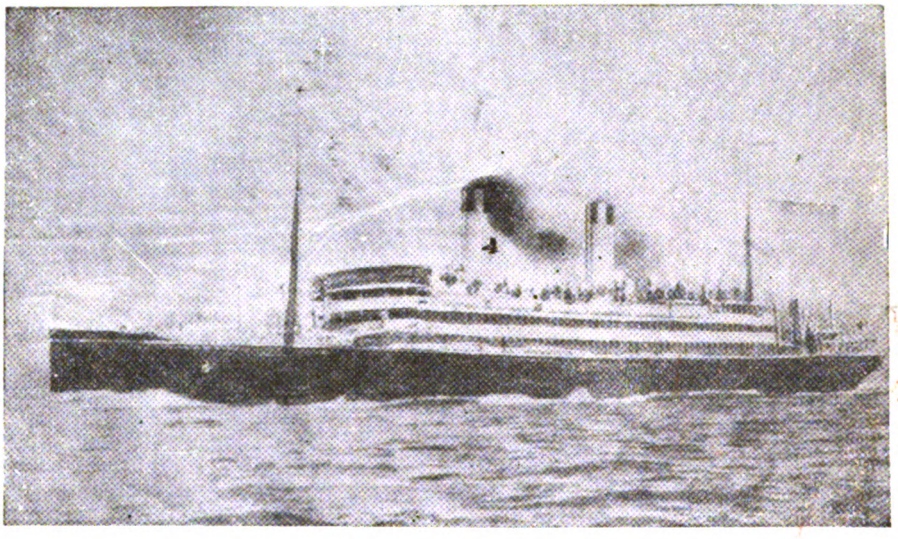

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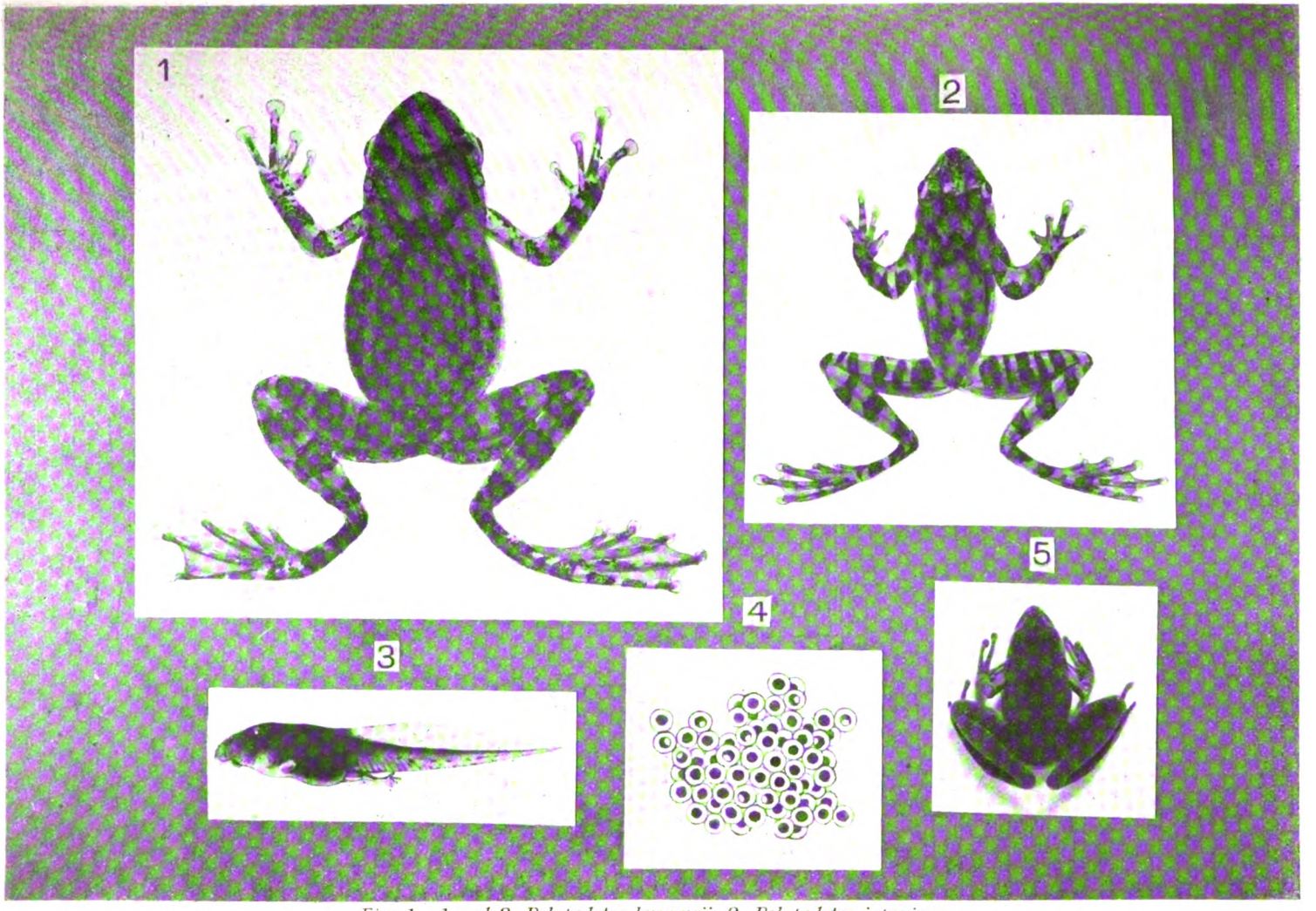

Fig. 1. 1 and 2, Polypedates buergerii, 2, Polypedates japonicus

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Fig. 2. *Rhacophorus schlegelii*

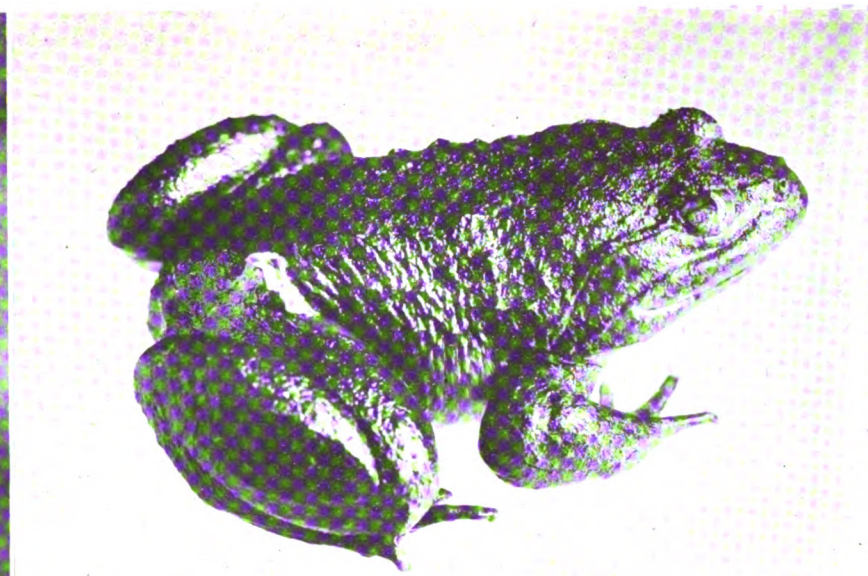

Fig. 4. *Rana namiyei*

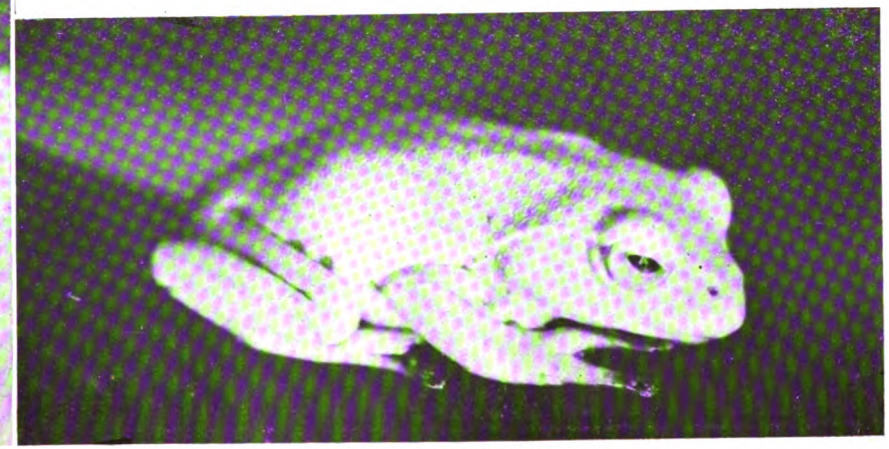

Fig. 3. *Rhacophorus schlegelii*

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THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

VOL. XVI JANUARY, 1926 No. IV

The Month in Progress

THE EDITOR'S DIARY

NOV. 16.—At the inaugural meeting of a union of 20,000 chauffeurs, a photograph was presented by the Chief Secretary Mr. Sumitani, of the late Prince Arisugawa, Prince Li and the late Prince Ito in an automobile, driven by Mr. K. Okura. The photograph was taken in about 1909, when the automobile was run to the Okinoshima Villa of the late Imperial Prince, in Aizu, by Mr. Okura to show that was suitable for use by the Imperial court.

Nov. 18.—The Government has decided to grant a loan of 120,000,000 yen to the Korean Government in 12 yearly instalments for the realization of the latter's plan to increase the yield of rice in the peninsula.

Nov. 19.—At a Cabinet conference, the next fiscal year's general Budgest was decided as 1,598,235,000 yen, including ordinary expenditure of 1,078,859,000 yen and extraordinary expenditure of 519,376,000 yen. The revenue is 1,-529,026,000 yen, leaving a shortage of 69,209,000 yen, which is to be met by the surplus brought were from the present fiscal year.

Nov. 20.—At the second national meeting of teachers of English held for three days from the 19th, under the auspices of the Society for the Study of English Teaching in the Department of Education, Professor Minamiishi of the Doshisha College proposed oral examination in English at examinations for entrance to the High and Technical Schools, in order to reform the present system of English teaching in the middle schools, which is to much inclined towards writing and reading and not towards speaking.

Nov. 21.—The Municipalization of perpetual leases in the former settlement of Yokohama is progressing satisfactorily. The total area purchased, to be purchased soon and applications for selling amounts to 90,600, *tsubo*, the purchasing price being 35 yen on the Bluff and 130 yen in Yamashita-cho, maximum.

Nov. 22.—The Yokohama Municipal Council passed the estimated cost of 1,000,000 yen for the New Grand Hotel building, which will begin to be erected in January, 1926 and will be completed in 1927.

Mr. C Shimooka, the Chief of the Civil Administration of Korea, died this morning in his Tokyo residence at the age of 56. Graduated from the Tokyo

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Imperial University, he entered the official world and served successively as the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce and Home Affairs and the Chief Secretary of the Privy Council, until he was appointed Chief of the Korean Civil Administration upon the formation of the first Kato Cabinet.

Nov. 24.—A project is being promoted for the annual celebration of the foundation of the state with the obiect of arousing the national attention to the ideal of the state's foundation and the national spirit and love of peace. Mr. H. Nagata, ex-Mayor of Tokyo, is Chairman of the Arrangements Committee. The first celebration will he held on February 11, 1926.

Nov. 25.—As a result of the unemployment census taken recently, Yokohama and neighbourhood were found to have 9,043 unemployed persons out of 494,195 on the census register.

Nov. 26.—November 29th is the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Doshisha University, Kyoto, and its students decided to create a pension found of 50,000 yen for their teachers by paying 50 sen every school term for 15 years. This is an unprecedented project in schools in Japan. The university has hitherto been financially unable to allow pensions to its professors.

Nov. 27.—It has been officially decided to give certain railway men police power, perhaps from March 1, 1926, the men to be so authorized being station masters, assistant station-masters and conductors in charge of passenger trains.

Nov. 28.—Plans are being made for erecting a monument for Mr. Richardson, an Englishman, who was killed at Namamugi in August, 1862 by a retainer of the Satsuma clan, which event is known as the Namamugi affair, by the local district chief and other parsons, including the mayor of Tsurumi.

Nov. 29.—The Toho Electric Power Co. plans to run a regular passenger motor car service between Tokyo and Yokohama along the newly built national road, using the storage battery sy tem, storing electricity unused in the night.

Nov. 30.—An investigation made by the Tokyo Municipal Social Bureau at 184 works in Tokyo shows that out of the 93,574 workmen investigated, over 40 per cent. finished the ordinary elementary course, dyers being mostly uneducated and mechanics being mostly edubated. Of the works investigated, 19 had schools of their own, 14 held lecture meetings, 5 gave education to their men outside and 8 otherwise educated their them, an exceptional fact being that one machine factory had a middle school for its men.

Dec. 1.—The new American Ambassador, Mr. MacVeagh arrived by the President Taft.

Dec. 2.—The peasant labour political party inaugurated on the the 1st, was prohibited by the Minister of Home Affairs on the night of the same day, under Art. 8 Clause 2 of the Police Regulations for the Maintenance of the Public Peace.

Dec. 3.—Mr. B. Yasuda, formerly Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, accepted the position of Chief of the Korean Civil Administration.

Dec. 4.—The second national census taken in 1925, shows there are in Japan

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22 cities, each of which has a population of not less than 100,000 led by Osaka with a population of 2,114,809 followed by Tokyo with 1,995,303. Nagoya comes third with 768,560 Kyoto fourth with 679,976 Kobe fifth with 644,212 and Yokohama sixth with 405,888. These are the six largest cities in Japan.

On October 1, 1925, Japan had a population of 59,736,704. Compared with the first census taken five years ago, the population shows an increase of 3,773,651 or 6.7 per cent.

Dec. 6.—The Crown Princess gave birth to a princes at 8.30 p.m.

Dec. 7.—At 3.30 a.m. a fire occurred in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, destroying 200 houses in the busiest quarter of the city.

Dec. 8.—Mr. H. Kubota of the Chiba Medical College hospital is reported to have found radical cure for cancer and to be presenting a thesis for a doctor's degree.

Dec. 9.—The railway authorities have decided to run electric trains on the Tokyo-Odawara section of the Tokaido line only after sufficientrial. It may not be untill March that the section is entirely electrified.

Dec. 10.—The Korean census shows the population to be 19,519,903 an increase of 1,451,787 over the figure at the end of 1914.

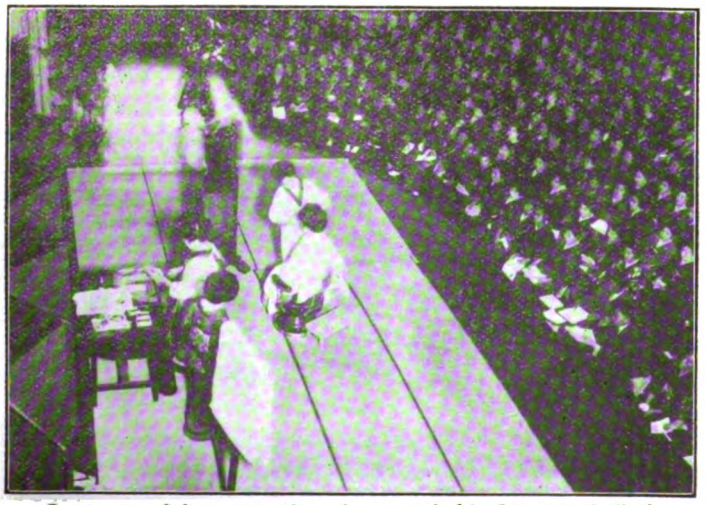
Dec. 11.—Prince and Princess Asaka returned to Japan from Europe and America, where the Prince had travelled for three years.

Dec. 12.—The Yokohama Municipality plans establishing an industrial laboratory in the Yokohama Commercial and Industrial School, for silk research and for making industrial tests for the public.

The naming ceremony for the Imperial Princess, born on December 6, was held in the Akasaka Palace. She was named Princess Terunomiya.

Dec. 14.—The new building of the Imperial Diet have been completed in 90 days after the old buildings were destroyed by fire on September 18. This is a record in the architectural world of Japan.

Dec. 15.—About 25,000 odes have been presented to the Imperial Court from Japan and foreign lands from which will be chosen those to be recited at the Imperial poetry party at the New Year. The subject given was "clear river-water."



Lecture and demonstration of new styled in Japanese ladies' coiffures before the Tokyo Women's Hair-dressing Society.

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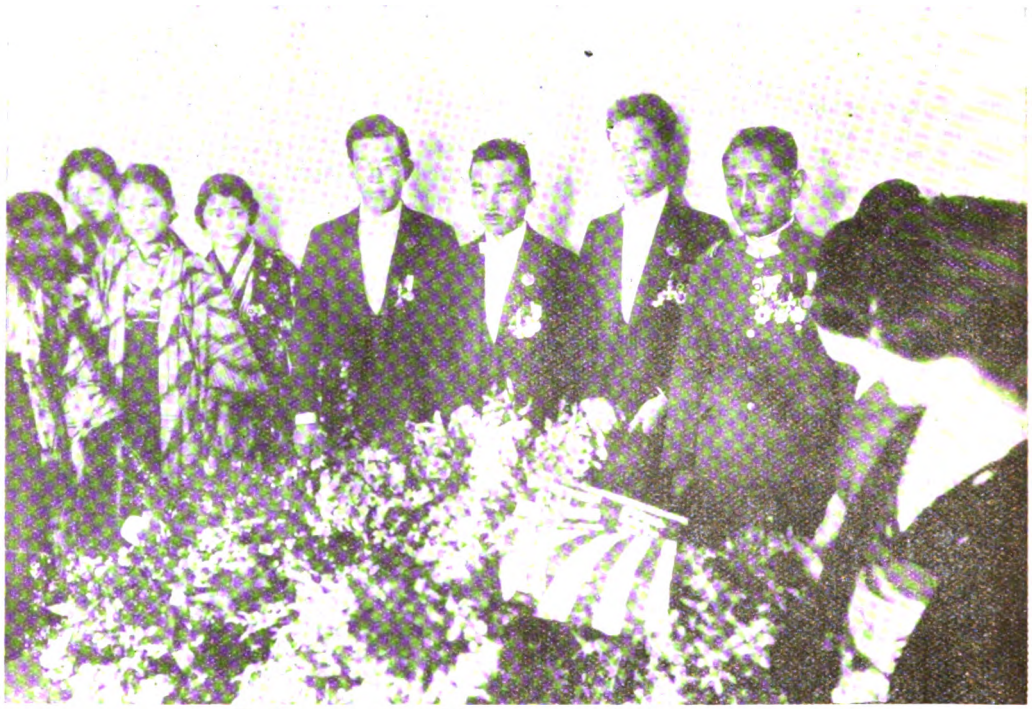

The Four *Asahi* Aviators arriving in Tokyo from Europe

The New Year's parade of Firemen, took place at Nijubashi ground on the January 6th

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The Japanese Government's Policy for the Coming Year

THE policy of the Government of Japan that it intends to follow during the year 1926, a review of its accomplishments during the past year, and a statement of the relations with foreign powers, were set forth in statesmanlike speeches by the Minister President of State, Viscount Kato, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Baron Shidehara, at the reconvened fifty-first session of the Imperial diet, on January 21.

Viscount Kato's Speech

The Prime Minister's Speech was as follows:

In August of last year, I reformed my Cabinet at the Imperial command and, on this occasion of the opening of the present Session of the Diet, I feel it a great honour to address you again on the general views of the Government.

It is a matter for congratulation, in the interest of the world's peace and of the well-being of humanity, that our relations with the Treaty Powers continue to grow in cordiality.

In January of last year abasic treaty was concluded between Japan and the Soviet Union for the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and the foundation was thereby laid for the settlement of many outstanding problems. Early in December last contracts were amicably concluded between the Japanese concerns interested and the Soviet authorities with respect to oil and coal concessions in Northern Saghalien. We are grealty pleased with this result, having at heart, as we do, the cultivation of friendship with the Soviet Union and our mutual economic development.

With regard to the proposed reform of the Customs Tariff in China, the Japanese Government, prompted by sentiments of good neighbourhood which under lie their policy towards China, have declared their readiness immediately to entertain, in principle, her aspiration for the restoration of her tariff autonomy. This action on our part springs from a desire to assist the neighbouring country in ameliorating its domestic administration, and from our earnest wishes for the development of its trade and industry. In this and in all other respects, we shall consider China's requirements with the utmost sympathy. At the same time, it is our intention to spare no efforts in safeguarding Japan's trade with China, while maintaining happy accord with the other Powers.

As to the question of the abolition of extraterritoriality in China, no objection is, in principle, to be raised to it, but it need scarcely be said that, before that that end can be realized, China should first put her institutions in order.

In October last disturbances again broke out in China, and caused misgivings in the minds of the Government and people of this country for the safety of Japanese subjects in China. The Japanese Government, while strictly adhering to the principle of absolute non-interference in China's domestic affairs, have had recourse to all legitimate means for the preservation of Japan's rights and interests in China. When, subsquently, warlike disturbances spread in the direction of Manchuria and Mongolia, and threatend Japan's rights and interests of paramount importance in that region, Japan was

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constrained to take the necessary steps to safeguard them. It so happened that the strength of the Japanese Garrison in Manchuria had been reduced by one half by the sending home of men and officers, whose term of service with the Garrison had expired. With its strength thus depleted, it was apprehended that the Garrison might not be able adequately to cope with the situation. Therefore, as an emergency measure, troops were dispatched from Chosen and Japan Proper of a number approximately equal to that of the returned soldiers. It was not long, however, before the disturbances subsided and all the troops dispatched have consequently been recalled.

Our policy and action in regard to China are entirely based on justice and fairness, and I confidently count on this spirit and attitude of ours coming to be fully appreciated by every section of the Chinese public.

Inasmuch as the electorate of the members of the House of Representativs has already greatly extended through the adoption of the so-called Universal Suffrage system, the Government realize the appropriateness of extending the electorate of the local legislative assemblies also and intend to lay before you during the Session various Bills thereanent. At the same time, with a view to enable the local self-governing bodies to exercise their powers more freely, we plan to adjust our control over them. By these means, we trust that the political rights that can be enjoyed by the people may be brought to full fruition.

In fact, with the already extended rights of the people in the representative government and with the extension of their rights in local self-government now contemplated, it may be said that the foundation of the political existence of our people will be broadened, and we consider that we ought to devote all our efforts to the replenishment and stabilization of the political and social life of the people. We need hardly say that we shall do our utmost for the development of various industries for the attainment of the said object, but we believe that the execution of diverse social-political measures is also necessary. Therefore, we have enlarged the scope of the measures hitherto in force and adopted new plans for the purpose of increasing production and developing foreign trade and, also being determined to put in practice the Health Insurance Law, which has been an outstanding question, have asked an appropriation for the necessary expenditure in the general estimates for the next fiscal year. Further, we realize the necessity of enacting the Labour Union Law and the Labour Disputes Arbitration Law and the revising of the Peace Police Law, and will submit to your consideration during this Session Bills for these respective purposes. In sympathy with the trend of affairs at home and abroad, the labour question has markedly increased in importance of late years and the establishment of an adequate policy towards it constitutes one of the principal tasks of the Government today. The enactment of these laws will, of coure, have a far-reaching effect upon the people socially and economically and in their thoughts and ideas, and taking this into consideration, it may be inadvisable to copy foreign countries in their preparation and enactment: the measures taken must necessarily be those that are appropriate to the conditions inherent in our country. Accordingly, the Government have caused various administrative offices and organi-

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zations repeatedly and circumstantially to investigate and carefully weigh and discuss the problem.

It goes without saying that there is also a necessity of effecting a general readjustment of our taxation system. Although the question has been pending for many years and the people have earnestly desired that something should be done and successive Administrations have made inquiries into it, nothing has been done up till now. Recognizing the necessity of speedily readjusting our taxation system, the Government, after having investigated and studied it, as was announced in the preceding session of the Diet, have now arrived in a concrete plan, so that Bills concerning it will be introduced into the Diet during the present Session together with the general Budget for the fiscal year of 1926-27. The contemplated readjustment of the taxation system covers almost all national taxes and, incidental to the abrogation and reduction of certain existing taxes, purposes the imposition of new taxes and increasing certain existing taxes in order to make good the deficit in revenue. The fundamental policy in view, however, aims at a readjustment of the taxation system in such a degree as will not give rise to any conspicuous gain or loss in revenue, and looks rather to a fair distribution of the incidence of taxes upon the people, with the ulterior object of promoting their welfare as much as possible from the social-political viewpoint. I believe that, in the economic conditions now obtaining in our country, this will largely contribute to the solidification of the bases of undertakings and to the development of industries generally. In addition, radical readjustment will be carried out in the local taxation system on the same lines and with the identical aimas in the case of national taxes.

It is an incontrovertible fact that the economic life of the people, both public and private, has swollen in recent years. Upon the formation of the present Ministry at the Imperial command, I advocated the necessity of thrift and economy and assiduity on the part of the people so as to prepare for our economic development in the future and the Government carried in the practice administrative and financial readjustments with your approva. One and half years have passed since then, and it appears that they are producing beneficial results in economic and financial and other fields of national activity, which induces me to believe that our economic circles have now taken a turn for prosperity and activity. However, should we relax our care and vigilance all our past endeavours would have been in vain. For the present, therefore, we shall still continue to adopt a policy of retrenchment and economy and lay necessary plans and take necessary measures for the replenishment of our national power in accordance with the demand of the times. In the event of real recuperation and recovery of our national economy being attained in future, we shall have recourse to policies adequate to such happy conditions and contribute thereby to the advancement of our national fortunes.

With regard to diplomatic and financial questions, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Finance Minister will have the honour of addressing you on their respective subjects.

In conclusion, I hope that you will give your approval to the various Bills in appreciation of the purposes ot the Government.

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Baron Shidehara's Speech

THE speech delivered by Baron Shidehara, Minister for Foreign Affairs, before the Imperial Dihet was follows:

In pursuance of the established practice, I now desire to submit for your approval the general outlines of the policy pursued by the Government, with reference to various questions with which we have been confronted in our foreign relations the last session of the Imperial Diet.

China has rcently presented developments of prime importance in her national and international affairs. With the termination of the conflict between the Fengtien and Chihli forces in 1924, all the military factions holding their own in various parts of China seemed weary of internecine warfare, and general repose and stability reigned for a while in the country. The Reorganization Conference of last February concluded its labours with a due measure of success. The question of the Gold Franc, which had remained a long outstanding difficulty in China's external relations was finally brought to an amicable adjustment. The deposit of ratifications by all the signatory Powers of the Nine Power Treaties of Washington was effected on Administrative reforms promised at one time to make fair progress. We have watched these peaceful and orderly developments of China with sincere gratification. In more than one instance, we have extended our friendly support, direct or indirect, to the efforts of the Chinese made in that direction.

Suddenly came the reports in last Apail that certain elements in China were inciting strikes in Japanese cotton mills at Shanghai, at Tsingtao and elsewhere. Demands for better of employments soon developed into threats and violence against employers and police; and, following the most unfortunate incidents which transpired at Shanghai towards the end of May, the agitation took the form of a political movement designed to extort from the Powers the cancellation of existing international arrangements. The disorders then rapidly spreed to a great many localties in the country. Such disturbances could no longer be regarded as a pure labour dispute. They were calculated to threaten by force the security of the lives and property of Japanese and othe foreigners. We were accordingly compelled to take at once the necessary measures for the protection of our countrymen residing in the localities affected. It was fortunates that in spite of the large number of Japanese residents in these localities, the injuries sustained by them were relatively unimportant. I am also happy to recall the highly efficient and satisfactory co-operation rendered by the officers and men of our China Squadron in affording profection to Japanese residents, and I desire to express, on this occasion, our deep appreciation of their services.

For the settlement of the international questions occasioned by these disturbances in China, we have been in communication with the Central Government and local authorities of China, either jointly or separately with the other Powers interested, according to the nature of the particular issues. Some of these issues have already been successfully adjusted. I shall not occupy your time by making reference to the details of the questions, which are much too complicated.

What has been of still more serious concern to us was the outbreak of a new

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civil war in China last October. Whatever causes, remote or immediate, may have led General Sun Churn-Fang of Chekiang to rise against the Fengtien Army, are China's domestic affair, on which I shall reserve all comment. It is however known in fact that no sooner had General Sun commenced his warlike operations than the Fengtien forces evacuated Shanghai. They then abandoned Nanking and finally fell back to the Province of Shantung.

Notwithstanding these successive reverses of the Fengtien Army in Central China, the situation in the Three Eastern Provinces in the middle of November showed no appreciable signs of unrest. Nor was there any indication of an approaching danger that the line of battle might extend to that region. In this situation, men of the Japanese Garrison in Manchuria, whose terms of active service had then expired, were recalled and discharged in accordance with the usual procedure.

On November 24, General Kuo Sung-Ling who then commanded the Fengtien forces stationed near Lanchow, suddenly rose against his chief, Marshal Chang Tso-Lin, and began to march towards Mukden. In accepting the challenge, Marshal Chang seemed to set up his first line of defence at Lienshan far behind the Manchurian frontier. Towards the beginning of December, his forces again retreated from Lien shang without offering much resistance to the invaders, and it became increasingly evident that he had decided to stake his last fortunes on a decisive battle along the Liacho. With these developments in view, the Commander of the Japanese Garrison in Manchuria issued a warning to both the opposing forces, calling their attention to the nature and scope of the duty incumbent upon the Japanese Garrison.

The deficiency in the strength of the Garrison due to the departure of dischageed soldiers in the middle of November was originally to be supplemented in the present month of January according to the annual programme. Any prior dispatch of men in replacement was to be withheld until the last moment of absolute necessity. An entirely new situation, however, presented itself, when reports from Manchuria came successively to hand from the night of December 14 to the next morning, confirming the arrival of a detachment of General Kuo's Army at the opposite bank of Yingkow. We had then seriously to consider the possibiliiy of an impending conflict between the respective forces of Marshal Chang and General Kuo in the open port of Yingkow. Our Garrison had now to keep special watch over a zone of the South Manchuria Railway extending from Yingkow in the south to Tiehling in the north. It became obvious that with the actual reduced strength of the Garrison, the satisfactory fulfilment of its mission over such an extensive zone was well-nigh impossible.

It was not doubted that both Marshal Chang and General Kuo had taken due note of the warning given by the Japanese Commander, and that in their military operations, they would fully respect the rights and interests of Japau. We could not, however, dismiss from our mind the apprehension that in the event of desperate engagements lasting for several days on all fronts, the belligerents might unconsciously be driven to the railway zone, to carry on street fighting and other forms of warlike operations. It has also happened in many past instanees that remnants

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of a defeated army, let loose from all control and discipline, have sacked towns and terrorized the population. Having regard to the imminence of such danger, which manifested itself on December 15, the Government decided at once to proceed to the reinstatement of the Japanese Garrison in Manchuria at its normal strength as maintained prior to the middle of November last. With the restoration of general peace in that region, following the decisive battle of the Liacho, the supplementary troops sent to Manchuria in the circumstances above desccribed were promptly recalled to their original posts, and all emergency measures came to an end.

It will thus be observed that throughout the recent civil strife in China, as in the case of the Fengtien-Chihli conflict of 1924, the Japanese Covernment have consistently followed the definite and settled policy announced in the last session of the Imperial Diet. That policy has in view (1) absolute non-interference in China's domestic affairs, and (2) the safeguarding of Japan's rights and interests by all legitimate means at our disposal.

There are apparently certain sections of public opinion which are swayed by prejudice in their judgment of Japan's action in Manchuria. The reinstatement of our Manchuria Garrison at its pre-existing strength has been misconstrued as if it had been designed to help the Fengtien Army. The objection interposed by the Japanese Commander against either of the warring parties entering the port of Yingkow has been misrepresented as an act directed solely against General Kuo's military operations. Every occasion has been utilized to place Japan in a false light. We deplore these unfounded and undeserved accusations, and in denying them categoricall, we are confident that history will be the final judge of our clear conscience. I would make use of this opportunity to express our sincere satisfaction to our civil and military authorities in Manchuria who, in the face of the recent grave situation, have successfully carried out the policy of the Government in perfect harmony and co-operation, and have further done all they could, solely in the interest of humanity, to save the lives of soldiers and adherents of the vanquished party.

While we have most scrupulously avoided all interference in China's internal politics, we have not failed to take every possible measure with a view to safeguarding our rightful position. It is a well-known fact that Japan possesses essential rights and interests both corporeal and incorporeal, in the region of Manchuria and Mongolia. Of such rights and interests, those that have taken a tangible shape, and are liable to destruction by acts of war, are now mainly to be found along the line of the South Manchuria Railway. In order to protect them from destruction, we have been constrained to make necessary provision, which, we believe, has duly accomplished its end. With regard to our rights and interests of an immaterial kind, they did not seem likely to be affected by the war, and we are satisfied that they have in fact remained entirely unaffected.

No doubt, the complete tranquillity of the whose region of the Three Eastern Provinces, undisturbed by any scourge of war, is highly to be desired, in the interest of the native population as well as of Japanese residents. It is, however, a responsibility that properly rests upon China. Assumption of that responsibility by Japan without just cause would be

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manifestly inconsistent with the fundamental conception of existing international relations, with the basic principles of the Washington Treaties, and with repeated decalarations of the Japanese Government. By taking such course, we would forfeit our national honour and pride once for all. In no case and by no means, can we be a party to so improvident an action.

I now turn to the subject of the Special Conference on Chinese Customs Tariffs actually in session, and propose to offer a brief explanation. Close observers of developments in China cannot fail to note growing signs of a political awakening amoung the Chinese people. The old China is disappearing, to give way to a new China. Extending, as we do, our sincere good wishes for her healthtly progress, we are not without a feeling of deep concern for the future of that nation, in witnessing the tendency of certain sections of the promising young generation, who, misled by groundless reports and sinister propaganda, are easily attracted to political activities of a dangerous and destructive nature. In any case, it would be a gross mistake to ignore the considerable changes that have taken place in the situation of China in recent years. Military potentates may rice or fall by the fortune of war. But national consciousness once kindled can never be suppressed. Any pressure brought to bear upon it will only make it still deeper. One phase of such self-awakening among the Chinese people has taken the from of a craving for tariff autonomy. In full relization of this situation, we formulated our line of policy relating to the Customs Conference.

As soon as the Conference was opened on October 26, the Chinese Delegation submitted the question of tariff autonomy as was quite anticipated. Pursuant to the defined policy of the Government, the Japanese Delegation expressed themselves ready to take up the question in sympathy with the position of China and in close communication with other Powers. The manifold difficulties that had stood in the way of unanimous action were successfully overcome, and on November 19, at a meeting of one of the Committees appointed by the Conference, a resolution was passed on the subject of the acceptance of China's tariff autonomy. At the same time, what we have constantly in view is the coexistence and common prosperity of both Japan and China. What we are pecking to attain in an adjustment fair and equal to bath parties. We are confident that the Chinese pople entertain no such unreasonable desire as to satisfy exclusively their own position, without any regard to whatever effcts may be suffered by Japanese industry and commerce.

Since the beginning of December last, the increasing gravity of the internal situation in the country has naturally retaded the progress of the Conference, only informal meetings being held from time to time. We trust that the work of the Conference will be continued and expedited as far as circumstances permit.

The Commission on Extraterritoriality in China is now also in session. We have always been sympathetically disposed towards the just aspiration of the Chinese people to recover full judicial autnority, and we are looking forward with keen interest to the findings and recommendations which are to be made by the commission conformably to the Resolution of the Washington Conference.

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It is gratifying to note that our relations with the Soviet Union continue to make steady progress. Contracts for the concessions of oil and coal fields in Northern Saghalien ware signed on December 14 by the Russian authorities and the representatives of our industrial concerns. Such results, assured as they were under the Treaty of Peking of a year ago, would not have been attained, if the Government of the Soviet Union had taken no interest in the promotion of Russo-Japanese economic cooperation. We welcome the successful issue of these negotations, as a fitting testimony to the sentiments of good neighbourhood uniting the two nations.

We seek no exculsive friendship with any nation: we extend honest friendship to all nations. We believe that this is the wiset course for Japan to pursue. With this end in view, we should avoid all hasty conclusions as to the intentions of other powers, based on mere streches of imagination unsupported by concrete evidence. In many cases, unjust suspicion and unwarranted prejudice have been at the root of serious international complications. In approaching at this juncture questions of Russo-Japanese relationship, we should carefully bear inmind these considerations. Rumours have recently been circulated, charging the Soviet Union with certain aggressive designs in North Manchuria. So far as my information extends, I have discovered no ground for attaching any credence to such reports. Since the resumption of official relations between Japan and the Soviet Union a year ago, we have constantly maintained close contact with the Soviet Government, and have effected frank exchanges of views and information from time to time, on all questions affecting the mutual relations of the two countries. Throughout such proceedings, we have been striving to dispel all groundless misunderstanding, and to promote friendly intercourse between the two nations. We shall continue to use our best efforts in the same direction.

Our relations with each of the European Powers are eminently satisfactory. With none of them have we any difficulty of a nature that portends developments calculated to create apprehension. On the contrary, there is every assurance of growing friendship on all sides. Japan is not a party to the Locarno Treaties recently signed, which are intended to regulate questions of purely Europea nconcern. But the atmosphere of confidence which these Treaties are known to have inspired in the political and economic situation of Europe cannot fail to clear the way for the forward march of the League of Nations, and to exercise a salutary influence upon the general peace and progress of the world. We are also deeply touched by the sincerity and devoted attentions with which H. I. H. Prince Chichibu is being everywhere received in England; and we rejoice in the thought that the friendship between the two nations rests on a soiled and enduring foundation.

For the first time in history, Japan inaugurated in the course of last year an exchange of Ambassadors with Turkey. Determined as we are to remain an independent and disinterested third party in face of the tangled ploblem of Europe in the Near East, we indulge the confident hope that the sentiments of good will fostered between the Turkish people and ours since the "Ertogrul" affair of 1891

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will gain in strength and solidity and that a new field of enterprise for Japanese industry and commerce will be opened in Turkey and in the neighbouring regions.

Turning to the relations between Japan and the United States, I permitted myself in the last two sessions of the Imperial Diet to set forth the views of the Government on the subject of the socalled Japanese Exclusion Clause in the Immigration Act of the United States of 1924. I find nothing here to modify or the supplemcnt the views then expressed. Nor can a lengthy discussion of the question at this moment serve any useful purpose. I only desire to make it clear that we remain unchanged in our feelings of deep regret at that particular Clause, which seems to us irreconcilable with the rules of international comity and justice.

Reviewing however, the trend of the general situation in the United States, all well informed observers will readily agree that there has been a steady growth in recent years of the appreciatlon and understanding of Japan by the American people. Among those who once championed the cause of anti-Japanese agitation, not a few are row openly reconciled to more moderate views. Among those who, at one time, took no interest in Japan, or displayed an innate prejudice against her, not a few seem to-day eagerly impartially, willing to know the truth, of all that relates to this country. Correct understanding is the foundation of true friendship. The general tendency now being manifested in the United States in the attitude of that nation towards Japan gives promise for a great future.

We are in perfectely agreeable relations with Mexico, as well as with the South American States. We have no plan whatever of political significance in our intercourse with any of these countries. We feel, however, that fair opportunities are there afforded for the economic enterprises of our countrymen, and it is our intention to encourage such legitimate activities as far as possile.

I would add a few words with regard to the question of emigration. It is not in our policy to send emigrants to any country in which they are not welcomed. Our constant desire is to supply capital or labour to undeveloped regions of the world and to promote the welfare and prosperity, not only of the emigrants themselves and of their mother country, but also of the countries in which they choose to establish their permrnent homes. Towards this end we are prepared to exert our unremitting efforts.

By the explanations which I have just offered, I hope I have made sufficiently clear the general lines of our foreign policy. In adopting that policy and in carrying it into effect, we have always made it a point not to be influenced by considerations of momentary advantage or disadvantage to the country. The life of a naison being eternal, the ultimate goal of diplomacy must be the lasting honour, prestige and interests of the nation. Firm in this conviction, and relying on your generous support, I shall face the heavy responsibility that rests upon me.

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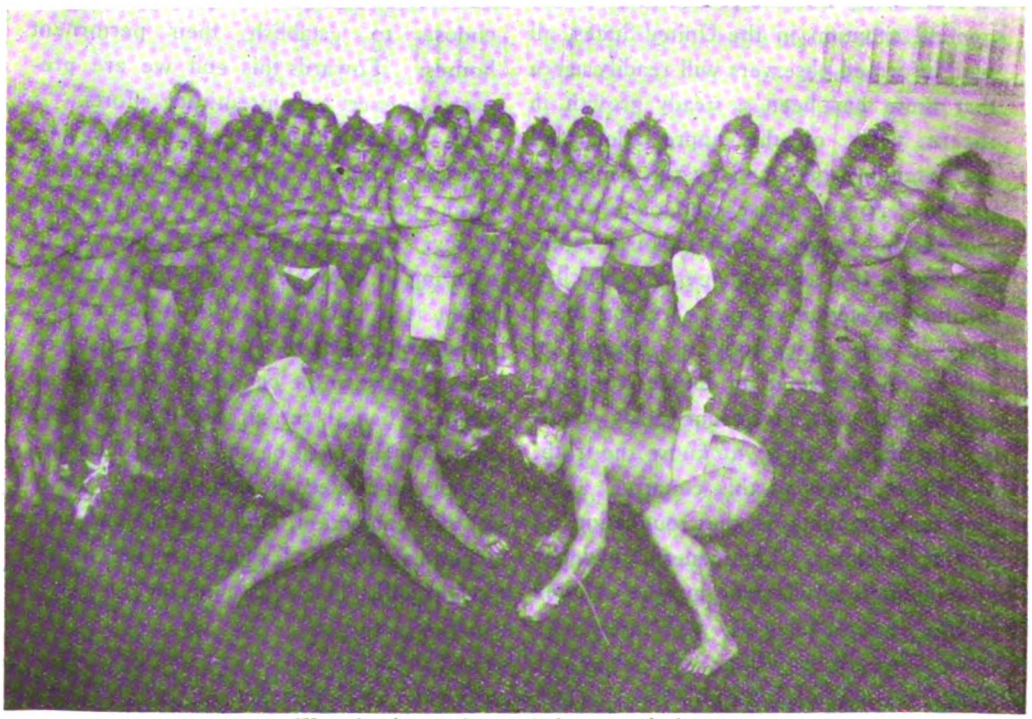
Famous wrestling match opened at Kokugikan, Tokyo



Wrestlers' exercise at their master's house

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"Share-bon," the Old Novels of the Demimonde

By Prof. F. Yamazaki

I

THE so-called *share-bon*, novels depicting the life of the demimonde which were so popular during the Tokugawa period, began to appear about 1744-1763 and ceased to appear about 1804-1829.

The authors of those days were fain to prescribe to themselves a particular style to which they adapted their own writings throughout a volume. Hence there came out many volumes of the same purport by diverse authors in that age treating of the demimonde life. The *Kibyoshi* (Yellow Book), *Yomihon* (Popular Reader) and *Gokan-bon* (A Book of Several Volumes bound together) belonged to this class of books.

The typical format of these publications was 5.2×3.6 inches, with their covers in light brown, which was the usual colour. These books were printed on Japanese *hanshi* paper. Their covers were sometimes deep blue, or bore a chequered pattern of light brown and light blue or sometimes were green-coloured. These novels were commonly called *Konnyaku-bon* from their resemblance to *konnyaku* (a kind of subsidiary food made from the roots of the hydrosme).

The *share-bon* novels were chiefly devoted to the life of the courtesans and the general atmosphere of the demimonde in those days. We hear reproaches by foreign critics that the old Japanese literature abounds in too many allusions to the demimonde life. This comes from a misunderstanding of the status and duties of the courtesans in old Japan.

During the Tokugawa period, Japanese women were strictly prevented from mingling in society, so that there naturally arose the necessity of providing a certain class of women to cater to the men's needs at convivial gatherings. These gradually came to form a class by themselves and lived in the licensed quarters, where men went for social entertainment.

Of course nowadays these women have greatly deteriorated in their social status as well as their culture. But in former days they enjoyed a status much superior to that of their sisters of to-day, and had besides many cultured accomplishments such as playing *go* (Japanese chess), playing on the *koto* (Japanese harp), making artificial arrangement of cut flowers, composing poems, making tea in the regular manner, etc.

The courtesans of that day were equal to the Western actresses of to-day in their social status. They could wait on *daimios* or millionaires with equal dignity. Their virtue was safe from temptation. So long as they took no fancy to the men who courted their love they were not coerced by any power to sell their virtue. Even a *daimio* they could reject with cold indifference if he did not suit their fancy.

Therefore, it is as absurd to contend that the old Japanese courtesans were a disgrace to society on account of the present disgraceful position of their sisters

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of to-day as to contend that Western actresses are shameful beings, judged from the immorality of the lower-class actresses in Europe and America.

The fact that some of the courtesans of Kyoto joined the theatrical world in the Tokugawa period proves to what a high pitch their accomplishments were carried. During the Tokugawa period when the manners were rude and wild under the feudal system some *samurai* parents told their sons to visit the licensed quarters to learn better manners. Indeed during the Tokugawa period there was no other place for social entertainment than the licensed quarters. So the latter served the same purpose among the gentlemen of that time as the hotels or restaurants of to-day. Therefore the women there played the part of the ladies in the social circles of to-day.

In such an atmosphere, it is quite natural that a literature sprang up founded upon the life in the licensed quarters. In Yedo the Yoshiwara licensed quarters, in Kyoto the Shimabara licensed quarters and in Osaka the Shinmachi licensed quarters contributed materials to this literature.

Saikaku Ihara depicted the life in these three lands of pleasure from various points of view. The works of Yoshi Nishizawa, Jishô Hachimonji, and Kiseki Yejimaya (the works of the latter two were generally called *Shamisen-bon*) abound in delicate description ot the fashions and customs of the demimonde and portray the love rivalries frequent in that circle. The examples of these authors in the treatment of the demimonde had a long enduring effect on later generations of writers in the Tokugawa period who took upon themselves to depict scenes in the gay world in Yedo, thus illuminating the social life of the Yedo people. The books produced by these later authors were the so-called *share-bon*.

The forerunners of the *share-bon* literature were the few earliest books of a like tendency that were published in Osaka in 1744-1747, but for some time for lack of succeeding writers who would take up this kind of erotic literature, it was on the decline when in 1757 a writer named Tôkô Sawada wrote a book entitled *Iso Rikujo* (Six Sketches of Strange Customs), which roused public attention a great deal, and after that many writers in the same line followed. From this circumstance, the book of Tôkô Sawada is too often regarded as the forerunner of the *share-bon* literature.

Tôkô Sawada was a son of a merchant in Ryôgoku, Yedo. He possessed learning and was skilful in the art of caligraphy as well as in painting. He also practised engraving of woodcuts with skill. Born of a rich family, he served neither the Tokugawa Shogunate Government nor any feudal lord. In his twenty-fifth year he wrote the book by chance inspiration, in which he utilized his fund of learning by illustrating passages with felicitous quotations from the Chinese classics and old Japanese poetry.

All similar books that appeared after this, including the *Yushi Hogen* (The Beau's Dialect), the first of the series, had no such refining characteristics, and were mere plain sketches of the life in the licensed quarters. Continuation of the Article "Old Novels Enunciating the Bushido."

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A History of the Japanese Stage

IX

ONOYE Kikugoro the Third, son of a joiner and adopted by Onoye Matsusuke, made his debut at the Ichimura Theatre at the age of 5 in the 8th year of Tenmei (1788), when he was called Onoye Eizaburo. When 20 years old, he visited Osaka and came back to Yedo the year following, when he appeared at the Kawarasaki Theatre. He was steadily elevated in his theatrical position until he succeeded to the name of Onoye Kikugoro, the master of his foster father, as the fourth generation at the age of 32 in the 13th year of Bunka (1816). In the following year, he was made the leader of the company.

In the 4th year of Koka (1847), he played at the Ichimura Theatre, which which was his last appearance before an audience in Yedo, for he went to perform in Osaka and Kyoto in the 1st year of Kayei (1848) and contracted a disease in the 2nd year, from which he died on his way back to Yedo.

He had handsome looks and a fine figure. When young, he looked at his face in a mirror and cried in spite of himself, how handsome he was. Those sitting beside him did not take it as self-conceited, but said he was quite right, for he looked handsome to any body.

Unlike his foster father, Matsusuke, an expert player of villain's parts, he distinguished himself as a performer of lovers, while he often succeeded in villain's and woman's parts. He showed his skill in domestic plays as did his foster father, fit to represent smart Yedo customs and manners as they were. His characteristic style in this direction was transmitted from him to Onoye Kikugoro the Fifth and then to Ichimura Uzayemon, a famous actor still living. In posture dancing, he was not equally popular, and was spoken of often as being rather too rough.

Critics of this time spoke in high terms of his admirable talent for playing skilfully many different characters, such as villains, girls, lads, old men, etc. He was possessed of the ability and figure to represent ingenuously these characters with their respective characteristics, without due change in figure. This made him clever at acting seven or nine roles in a single play.

He was good at quick changes as was his foster father. This he often applied to ghost plays successfully. His sepresentative ghost play was the Yotsuya-kaidan, in which he impersonated O-Iwa.

One day while waiting for his turn to come on the stage, when made up as O-Iwa, he asked a pupil standing by if he looked dreadful. "No, Sir," I am too accustomed to look at you daily to feel fearful," replied the pupil. Kikugoro nodded at this, and hid himself unnoticed in a dark corner. The pupil, who looked round in search for his master, who had suddenly disappeared was surprised by O-Iwa appearing abruptly under his eyes with a ghastly expression, and he fainted with a cry of terror.

After the act, Kikugoro called the pupil to his room and paid for his faint, saying that he had frightened him to see for himself if he looked dreadful, as his self-confidence was somewhat shaken at being told by the pupil that he was not so dreadful to him.

Bando Zenji, who impersonated Aki-

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yama Chobei, the villain, in the same play said that on the stage, he could not bear to look at O-Iwa but that in the subsequent impersonation of the same person by Ichikawa Yaozo, he had no such feeling.

Ichikawa Danjuro the Seventh, who played in the same play the part of Uzayemon, the husband of O-Iwa, who treated her cruelly, could not bear to look at her dreadful face appearing later as a ghost and looking into his face with a terrible laugh. He was often asked by Kikugoro to look at his face of O-Iwa, but he did not dare to do so.

On another occasion, Seki Sanjuro took the role of Iyemon. He was so terror stricken by O-Iwa represented by Kikugoro that he fell ill and could not appear on the stage during the run of the play.

With such super-art, he was very haughty. He was quick-tenpered and often quarreled. He was not generous with money and often demanded unreasonably high wages, on which account he was kept by his friends at a distance.

His eldest daughter married Ichimura Uzayemon the twelfth, whose son became Onoye Kikugoro the Fifth, one of the most celebrated actors in tne Meiji era and has an able successor in the person of the present Onoye Kikugoro the Sixth.

Ichikawa Danjuro the Seventh claims a position as one of the most famous contemporary actors in Yedo. A grandson of Ichikawa Danjuro the Fifth, he made his debut at the Ichimura Theatre at the age of 4, when he was called Ichikawa Shinnosuke as a pupil of Ichikawa Danjuro the Sixth.

He succeeded to the name of Danjuro in the 11th year of Kansei (1799), when his master died. He was mostly associated with the Ichimura Theatre. He became the head of his company at the age of 23. From that time on, he grew famous and was equally popular as Onoye Kikugoro the Third.

In the 13th year of Tenpo (1842), he was arrested by the Yedo police and was expelled from Yedo on a charge of having violated the Governor's proclamation of frugality and worn actual armour on the stage, lived in utmost luxury in his house and purchased and held splendid and very valuable household furniture. For a time, therefore, he travelled round Ise and Osaka, where he performed at different theatres. In December of the 2nd year of Kaei (1849), he was pardoned and allowed to come back to Yedo. He died at the age of 69 in the 5th year of Ansei (1858).

He was of small build. He had big eyes and a fine voice, being a clever talker. He was versatile. He was at his best in *aragoto* (rough scenes) and *budo* (military plays). He proved himself good in love and domestic plays and celever at impersonating villains and old men and women. He was also a skilled posture dancer. He adapted *no* plays into theatrical performances imitating the actions and dresses. His representation of women was extraordinary as an actor of the Ichikawa family.

He was interested in realistic plays and flavoured scenes with his daily experiences, and this won public applause. This inclination was transmitted to Ichikawa Danjuro the Ninth, his son, which created the so-called living historical plays in the Meiji era.

Ichikawa Danjuro the Eighth, his eldest son, was very popular. He committed suicide in Osaka and was succeeded in the name by his younger brother as Ichikawa Danjuro the Ninth, who was the greatest actor in the Meiji era.

Another famous contemporary actor was Arashi Kanjuro. Being named at first Banto Mankichi, he stayed in Osaka for a time, when he became a pupil of Arashi Kichisaburo the Third and was renamed Kanjuro. He came back te Yedo at the age of 27 and performed at the Ichimura Theatre. He died at the age of 71 in the 3rd year of Koka (1846). He was ugly and had a low voice. He was best in villain's and old man's parts and was a good player of wrestlers among his contemprories in Yedo, Osaka and Kyoto.

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Ichikawa Omezo, son of Ichikawa Monnosuke, the Second and pupil of Ichikawa Danjuro the Fifth, made his debut at the age of 9. He was clever in villain's parts. He died at the age of 53 in the 4th year of Tempo (1833).

He wrote a good hand, of which he was innocently boastful. He used to write long letters on unimportant business. One of his patrons, vexed by his too long letters, told him to write only notes of about three lines. Instead of writing horizontally on letterscrolls as usual, he wrote longitudinally three lines on them, at length as before. Whenever he had spare money, he would buy writing brushes, India ink, paper and silk tissues for writing or drawing, on which he wrote for others, who requested it.

Seki Sanjuro the Second, who was at first a pupil of Arashi Kichisaburo, an Osaka actor, was later under Nakamura Utayemon the Third. He succeeded to the name at the age of 23 in the 5th year of Bunka (1808). Accompanied by his master, he came to Yedo and performed at the Nakamura Theatre. His predecesso was not so famous, but he raised his family name by his reputation as the great master Sanjuro. He died at the age of 54 in the 10th year of Tempo (1839).

His style was too plain to greatly popularize him among the citizen , who forgot him when they were out of the theatre, while they were struck by his wonderful art while at the performance as criticised rightly by Ichikawa Danjuro the Seventh. Once, he played in company with Onoye Kikugoro the Third and Ichikawa Danjuro the Seventh. The play drew very large houses. He ascribed the success to the company of the other two. Danjuro denied it and told him that the audience came, being attracted by the name of Danjuro and Kikugoro but went away struck with at admiration of Seki Sanjuro's wonderful performances.

As master players of women's parts, we can mention Nakamura Tomijuro the Second in Osaka and Iwai Hanshiro the Fifth in Yedo.

Tomijuro, born in Osaka, was at first a pupil of Ichikawa Jinnosuke under Ichicawa Danzo the Fourth. In the 9th year of Bunka (1812), at the age of 27, he became a pupil of Nakamura Utayemon the Third. He steadily won a high reputation. He succeeded to the name of Nakamura Tomijuro as the second generation at the age of 48 in the 4th year of Tenpo (1833). He died at the age of 70 in the 2nd year of Koka (1845).

He was insignificant looking with heavy eyes, but he had a very shapely figure and a particularly fine voice. He was a good hand at playing in historical and domestic dramas. As a player of feminine roles, he was versatile, being proficient in music.

All these strong points eclipsed the ugliness of his features, and placed him in the highest position as an actor taking female parts. At last, he led a company formed of cecond rank actors, with whom he made provincial tours.

Another famous actor of female parts was Nakamura Karoku, although he was not equally well reputed as Nakamura Tomijuro. Born in Osaka, he was a pupil of Nakamura Utayemon the Third. In the 5th year of Kayei (1852), he made another visit to Yedo at the age of 74. He died at the age os 81 in the 6th year of Ansei (1859).

He was big and fine looking, having a strong voice. He represented prostitutes remarkably well.

His third son, Nakamura Karoku the Third, was alive till recent times, and his son, Nakamura Kichiyemon, is prominent among the young actors of the present day.

Arashi Koroku the Fourth, Sawamura Kunitaro the Second and Fujikawa Tomokichi Second also were noted as master actors of female parts in Kyoto or Osaka.

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In Yedo, Iwai Hanshiro the Fifth stood abreast with Nakamura Tomijuro. A son of his predecessor, he made his debut at the age of 12 in the 7th year of Tenmei (1787), and in the 1st year of Bunka (1804), he suceeded to the name of Iwai Hanshiro at the Nakamura Theatre at the age of 29. He performed not only in Yedo, but in Kyoto and Osaka, where he won popularity. He died at the age of 72 in the 4th year of Koka (1847).

He had a great reputation for his handsomeness. He had charming eyes and a very expressive face. He was attractive and womanly in manner. He was a good speaker.

Ichikawa Danjuro the Ninth, the greatest modern actor, in acting O-Miwa at the Shintomi Theatre, greatly admired the type of Iwai Hanshiro and adopted it.

Hanshiro made it his forte to impersonate girls, by which he distinguished himself until late in life. At the age of 63, he acted Yayegaki-hime, a young and beautiful lady, with out the least sign of being an old man.

He was in his element when he represented jealous girls. He also was clever at impersonating prostitutes of an unyielding spirit, middle-aged women of a chivalrous spirit, women skilled in military arts, villainous old women and women thieves. He was not equally good at acting women in grief, for which his too fine and charming features were thought to be responsible.

He danced as cleverly as his predecessor. He was skilled in quick changes. He took male roles, which his predecessor was unfitted to play. Above all, Shirai Gonpachi, a gallant appearing in acts Banzuin Chobei, was most successfully represented by him throughout his life, as his male role. Since then, that character has been regarded as most fitted for the Iwai family.

(To be Continued)

The new Chilean Minister to Japan, when he proceeded to the Imperial Court to present his credentials.

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Frogs in Japan

By Yaichirô Okada

WITH her dominions extending from the north to the south through the frigid, temperate and torrid zones, Japan possesses a great variety of frogs. The known species of frogs in the land are about sixty in number, but the chances are that many more will be discovered as investigations go on. Of the sixty species ten are of the toad kind, one of *suzu-gayeru* (Bombina orientalis literally, bell-frog), four of the tree-frog, three of the *hime-amagayeru*, (Microhyla fissipes) one of the *Jimoguri-gayeru*, (Cacopoides Tornieri) twenty-eight of the wood frog, two of the singing frog and ten of the *ao-gayeru* (Rhacophorus). As it will be seen, the wood frogs are the greatest in number, constituting one third of the total.

From the zoogeographical point of view, the Japanese frogs belong both to the palaearctic region and the Oriental region. It is evident that frogs belonging to both regions must have lived in this country too in very remote ages when the Asiatic continent and our land were united. Since those times our frogs have undergone many changes until they have produced some new species or sub-species. Turning our eyes to Japan alone, we find that the frogs belonging to the palaearctic region live in Saghalien, Hokkaidô and north Chosen, while those belonging to the Oriental region live in Formosa, the Loo Choo islands, and Amami Oshima island. It may be observed that in other districts of the country race complex of these two categories of frogs exist, but generally speaking, the number of frogs belonging to the palaearctic region preponderate.

To determine the line of demarcation between the two main regions of the distribution of the frogs it is necessary to refer to the line suggested by Prof. Watasé, which he proposed to draw between Yaku and Tanegashima islands on one side and Amami Oshima island on the other, to the south of Kyûshû. This proposition is now found to be well-founded, on the strength of evidence furnished by the investigations carried on in regard to the distribution of the other branches of animals, such as mammals and birds. Therefore, I may be permitted to call this line the *Watase's* line. It may be remembered that in the beginning of the Meiji era, Captain Blakiston proposed to draw a line of demarcation between Hokkaidô on one side and the mainland on the other along the Tsugaru Strait, seeing that there were clear evidences in the mainland, of the existence of race complex of birds while in Hakkaidô and Saghalien genuine races of birds belonging to the palaearctic region existed. This conclusion was arrived at by the Captain by the study of the distribution of birds in this country, but later researches conducted by other scholars with regard to mammals and reptiles have proved the justice of his conclusion, hence the name of the Blakiston line.

We have, moreover, to consider the provisional lines that may be drawn between Hokkaidô and Saghalien along the Sôya Strait in one case and in the other that may be drawn between the mainland and Chosen along the Tsushima strait (or, more strictly speaking, along the Eastern Channel of Tsushima, because Tsushima

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island more properly belongs to the peninsula). In short, in Japan, the elements of the palaearctic regions outweigh the elements of the other region, and the frogs themselves are the same in species with those living on the Asiatic continent and in some cases are allied in kind to them.

Indigenous kinds of frogs are very few in Japan. Only the following are of this latter kind as found in the mainland of Japan: Kajika-gayeru (*Polypedates buergeri*), Mori-aogayeru (*Rhacophorus sch. var. arborea*), Schlegel-aogayeru (*Rhacophorus schlegelii*), Kita-aogayeru (*Rhacophorus sch. var. intermedia*), Tago-gayeru (*Rana Tagoi*). Those native to the Loo Choo islands are Holst-gayeru (*Babina Holsti*) Ishikawa-gayeru (*Rana Ishikawae*), Ottonkayeru (*Babina subaspersa*), Owston-aogayeru (*Rhacophorus Owstoni*), Aogayeru (*Rhacophorus viridis*), Nihon-Kajikagayeru (*Polypedates japonicus*) and those belonging to Formosa are Taiwan-gayeru (*Rana taipehensis*), Hara-buchi-gayeru (*Rana adenopleura*), Buto-aogayeru (*Rhacophorus robustus*).

The *kajika-gayeru*, (Polypedates Buergeri) singing frog is appreciated for its faculty of singing in a peculiar staccato voice. So those of this kind that are famed for their excellent singing fetch high prices. They are found in the mainland, Shikoku and Kyûshû, living in the mountain streams, and send forth their voices in a still clear, high-pitched tone. From the end of June to the middle of July, they spawn on the lake-side or by the side of the pool of a mountain rivulet.

Fig. 1, *Polypedates Buergeri*, ♀.

The *mori-aogayeru* (Rhacophorus Schleg. var. arborea) lives in the mainland from the middle northward, and is distinguished by its peculiar habits of spawning. The female of this kind of frog lays its eggs on the branches of trees beside a lake, bog or pond about two or three feet above the water level or sometimes ten feet high up. The spawn thus emitted is of milk-white colour and of the size of a hunting-cap. Immediately after emission from the female's body the spawn is a transparent gelatinous substance, but after being agitated by the males the substance turns into a large foam-like mass. The eggs in the mass are large milk-white globules.

Fig. 2. Ditto, ♂.

The tadpoles immediately after they are hatched are of white colour but by degrees the black pigment increases in them and when the tadpoles drop from the spawn mass to the water they are very much blacker. A peculiar habit with this kind of frog is to be noticed in the manner of fertilization of one female by several males instead of one as in the case of other species of frogs. This kind of frog inhabits the mountain districts and therefore its spawn masses like toy-balloons are to be met with hanging on the tree branches at Mt. Kôya in Wakayama prefecture, or in Nara Park in Nara prefecture, or on the Lake of Towada in Akita prefecture or on the lakes near Mt. Hakkôda or Mt. Osoré, from the end of May to the end of July.

The *Schlegel-aogayeru* (Rhacophorus Schlegelii) resembles the *mori-aogayeru* in shape, but is different from the latter in respect of the habit of spawning. It lays eggs in the months of April and May in the ground of the border of paddy-fields. The spawn mass of this frog is smaller than that of the *mori-*

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aogayeru, but likewise looks like froth.

Fig. 3.

Tadpoles of *Polypedates Buergeril*.

The *holst-gayeru* (Babina Holsti) in the Loo Choo islands is a huge frog, the hugest of all frogs in Japan. It is remarkable for the five toes each of its fore-legs. The first toe of these has a bony projection in the shape of a prickle, which injures one sometimes when he tries to catch it. In the islands of Amami Oshima there is another kind of frog called *otton-kayeru* (Babina subaspersa) which is allied to the former. This inhabits also the mountainous districts and is as large as the *holst-gayeru*.

It may be mentioned that the *holst-gayeru* goes by the name of *waku-bichi* in the Loo Choo islands. This is eaten as ordinary food or used for medicinal purposes. It is sold for about 1 yen per pound and is much appreciated. In the day-time it lurks in the crevices of rocks in the mountains and comes out at night for food. It often lives in the holes of a tree and there lays eggs. Besides, in the Loo Choo islands and the islands of Amami Oshima there is another big kind of frog called *Namiye-kayeru* (Rana Namiyei) which lives in the mountains and is used as food and medicine.

Fig. 4.

Egg mass of *Polypedates Buergeril*.

In Japan the custom has been known from old of using frogs as medicines for consumptive diseases or others, so much as that the *yama-akagayeru* (Rana tempararia ornativentris literally, mountain wood frogs) in the province of Omi is a noted creature in that part of the country. Formerly indeed the wood frogs were often used as food, being roasted and seasoned with soy. But nowadays the kind of frog called *tono-sama-gayeru* (Rana nigromaculata having a green skin is used in great numbers for a dish in European-style cooking. It is to be mentioned that in Formosa and the Loo Choo islands edible frogs are placed in the market, which incidentally testifies to the fact that the manner of cooking in those localities is akin to that of China.

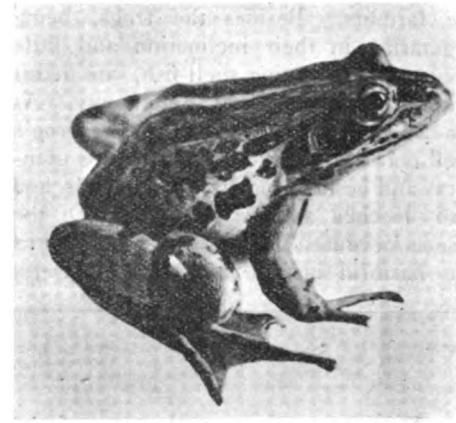

Fig. 5. *Rana nigromaculata* H.

In the Loo Choo islands the kinds of frogs called *numa-gayeru* (Rana linmocharis) which is abundant in the watery fields are sold in the market with their skins flayed and the entrails taken out, being put on bamboo skewers. Because the *numa-gayeru* fetches the price of 1 sen (half a farthing) per head and the *waku-bichi* 1.30 yen (about 2 shillings) per head, the frog-catchers are doing a good business, and therefore it is no wonder that they are plying their trade as a hereditary profession in the capital of Okinawa islands. The kinds of frogs that are eaten in Formosa are the *babatorafu-gayeru* (Rana rugulosa), *trafu-gayeru* (Rana tigrina) and *plansi-kayeru* (Rana Plancyi).

In 1918 or there abouts Professor Watasé introduced bull-frogs (Rana catesbiana) into this country, which were propagated at the Imperial University of Tôkyô. Since

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then their descendants have greatly multiplied in many places of this country. We may, therefore, reasonably expect that before long this kind of frog will be generally placed in the market for food purposes.

It goes without saying that frogs are in intimate relationship with agriculture. Especially those frogs called *tonosama-gayeru* so numerous in the paddy fields do much good to the farmers by destroying noxious insects. From the fact that frogs prey upon the harmful insects during the night, when they do the most harm, they do more good than the birds in helping the farmers. Besides the frogs, being vegetarian in their inclination and little accustomed to eating shell-fish, are better suited to render services to humanity. As far as my investigations go, the frog's food consists chiefly of various kinds of insects and besides spiders, small shells and also leeches and earthworms. Of the insects devoured by the frogs two-thirds are harmful insects and the rest useful ones. That is to say, these insects mostly belong to Coleoptera.

Fig. 6. *Bufo vulgaris japonicus* Sch.

It should be added that frogs are sometimes used as bait for catching the catfish, or also as food for chickens. The manufacturing of small articles for decoration out of the toad's skin (Bufo vulgaris japonicus a Bufo vulgaris formosus) once so popular is now nearly out of fashion.

Battledore makers

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Around the Hibachi

Three Stories of Roguery

ALONG the banks of the Kamo River in the suburbs of Kyoto was seen an old man walking in the direction of Kitayama, on the evening of the 28th of December. The people in the city were busy making preparations for the coming New Year.

It chanced that the old man came upon a paper thing lying on the road, with a superscription which meant that it contained three 1-*ryo* gold coins, which, he instantly picked up and found therein the money indicated.

"The owner of this money must be now embarrassed for his loss at this time of financial pressure at the end of the year. Who can have lost this momey?" muttered he. And he looked round but there was no passer-by.

He then perceived a man afar off taking a rest standing, who looked like a faggot-seller, by the side of a pine-grove. He approached and asked this man whether he had lost any money. The latter acknowledged that he had lost a lot of money. Thereupon, the old man, taking out the money in the paper, asked the other whether it was his money.

The faggot-seller, casting a look at the paper containing the money said that it was his. But at the same time he added, "But since it fell from my pocket it seems that it has very little pre-destined connection with me, so that the money might as well belong to you. Keep the money for yourself."

The old man was greatly surprised and pressed him to take back the money, arguing that now that the real owner of the money had been found he ought to receive the money as a right. "Please take back the money, well examining the contents of this paper purse."

But the faggot-seller still refused to take the money, saying if the money had fallen into a dishonest man's hand it might have gone for ever, but luckily as it had got into the honest old man's hands he was thus in a position to be able to reclaim his money, and that therefore he would be pleased if the money should come into the old man's possession.

At this the old man flew into a great passion and remonstrated that he could not bring himself to take the money with a good conscience now that the rightful owner of the money had been found. In consequence a brawl ensued. The purse flew like a shuttle between them for a time.

By and by cowherds and other faggot-sellers came along and crowded round the disputants. Some of the onlookers offered to mediate, and hearing the cause of the dispute were struck with admiration at their honesty. The two disputants at last decided to commit their cause to the tribunal of the magistrate of Kyoto.

The officials of the court, hearing what was the matter only marvelled at this rare instance of practical honesty. They secretly observed that here were two paragons of honesty, and reported the case to the magistrate, Lord Itakura.

It happened that Lord Itakura was then lying ill, attended by two famous physicians. So his lordship commissioned his deputy to take up the case.

He said to his deputy: "This is a strange case, which you may judge for

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yourself with discretion, by way of the first trial of your judicial skill."

The deputy, realizing the weighty nature of the task he was charged with, set to contrive the best method of judging the case. He then asked his lordship to grant him a 1-*ryo* gold coin, which he added to the three gold coins in question and waited for the day of examination.

At last the case was brought before the deputy judge. He began by hearing the

A new style of coiffure among Japanese ladies of the upper class.

two men's pleadings and finally declared that his lordship was pleased to grant to both of them two 1-*ryo* coins each, inasmuch as otherwise the three gold coins would have gone for ever from the rightful owner, and also the honest old man would lose the three gold coins, notwithstanding he might easily have pocketed them if he had been dishonest enough, and so his lordship has graciously given another 1-*ryo* coin, incurring the loss of one *ryo* himself, to let them equally share the fruits of their honesty.

The two disputants then consented to compose their differences according to this judgment and went home much satisfied, while the judge himself gloried in the perspicacity of his verdict. He reported the result to his lordship.

But his lordship shut his eyes and meditated for a moment, before he, shaking his head, slowly said: "To tell you the truth, you took a wrong view of the matter from the first. I conjecture this is only a trick played by the two rogues in concert. It is quite absurd that two men should quarrel over returning the lost money or accepting it in a law court. There must be some ulterior motive which you must dig up. These men, I suppose, have the ambition to do great mischief in future by now passing themselves off for honest characters, to be talked about over the whole city. Summon them again and cross-examine them without mercy." Thereupon, the deputy judge straightway summoned the two men and telling them what his lordship had said urged them to confess their secret design on pain of torture.

Then the faggot-seller changed colour suddenly, and trembling all over, began to confess in this strain: "Indeed, I don't know why, but that that old man asked me to play the owner of the lost money is true. Why he did so, I can not understand. I only beg your honour's forgiveness." Thus having wormed out the secret, the judge proceeded to strictly examine the old man, who then confessed all, as Lord Itakura had surmised.

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According to the old man's confession, he had intended to have a means of cheating others of enormous sums of money in future by now passing himself off for an honest fellow. So the judge took pity upon him and admonished him to beware for the future and mend his ways as he had not many days to live, being such an old man, and declared he should be set free because he had not yet positively wronged anybody.

The old man was then banished from Kyoto and his accomplice also was driven from his comfortable home at the foot of Mt. Kurama, his home of long memory where he had spent his days in peace.

The fame of Lord Itakura as magistrate became heightened after this incident.

II

The incident related in this story occurred during the Kamakura period.

In Ichimachi in Kamakura, the seat of the Shogunate Government of the Hojôs, there lived a fishmonger named Hansuké. It happened that this man's wife was in secret amour with a horse-doctor named Shimpei, who often stole into her house after her husband left his home for the market early in the morning around four o'clock.

One cold Winter morning, Hansuké started from his home at the usual early hour in good cheer, but thinking of his wife left at home in the cold, with the hard frost and the biting blast, he hurried home and fondly said to her that in this bitter weather he felt anxious about her health, so he would leave her his cloak which she might wear in comfort as he could well brave the cold by the warmth of his exertions on the way.

Thus having given kind attentions to his wife, the poor husband went his way again. The faithless wife, when his back was turned, with a jeering face laughed at her guileless husband.

But the wicked farrier who had already come in and was hiding, perceiving the woman's ungrateful manner toward her absent husband, was suddenly seized with anger and remorse. He stabbed her to death in the first impulse of his hatred.

The commotion after the return of the husband may be imagined. The husband, not suspecting his dead guilty wife, only lamented her sad fate in the sincerity of his heart, believing that some robber had murdered her.

The murderer himself was one of the mourners who came to the husband to console him, but at the heartrending sight of his sorrow, the conscience-stricken man felt drawn to confess his crime.

Immediately after his return home he put in writing the details of his relations with the dead woman and his final impulse to kill her, in the form of a memorial, which he submitted to the Shogun Tokiyori Hôjô.

The Chief Magistrate, upon reading the confession, took pity upon the offender by reason of his timely remorse and commuted capital punishment to the penalty of being exposed to public view, with a tablet hanging from his body, bearing the inscription that this was a wretched adulterer, named Simpei, with the corpse of his victim placed beside him.

After that the authorities permitted Shimpei to become a servant of the wronged husband.

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III

Once there was a carrier named Kyûsuké. This man sent in a petition to the magistrate, stating that he was a carrier by trade, between Yamashina and Fushimi (near Kyoto); that while taking a rest at a little tea-house at Ōkamidani on his way to Fushimi with his load of stockfish, cured trout and dried flat-fish from northern provinces consigned to him by a transporting agency at Otsu one of his packages was stolen; that after inquiries it was found that the pilferer was Higeroku Takeda, a stalwart chairman going up and down that way; that the carrier complained to the latter, who denied the charge and turned upon his accuser in great fury and beat him, though by the mediation of the neighbours the scuffle was put an end to; that the offender was delivered into the hands of the town officials for custody; and therefore the carrier was anxious to get justice.

The magistrate instituted due inquiries and found that the accusation was well-founded and caused the stolen goods to be returned to the carrier. But the accused protested that he had never had any intention to steal the stuff but had carried it away by mere mistake. All the circumstances, however, conduced to prove the accused guilty and so he was put into prison.

About three weeks after this it happened that an amnesty was proclaimed and all the prisoners were set free, except the chairman and two other convicts.

These three prisoners complained to the prison officials, pleading that even the worst convicts had now been liberated and it was unfair that they themselves, such slight offenders, should be disregarded, and therefore begged to be granted equal favour. The jailers told them that all the rest, being the wickedest of the prisoners, and having been already given sentences were now allowed to go, but the three, being only slight offenders and having not yet been given definite sentences were not worthy of the same privilege.

The three prisoners then somehow or other concluded that the fact that they were slight offenders had excluded them from the benefit, so they made up their minds that they might as well confess their old graver offences to invoke the wholesale pardon. Hence they reported that they were ready to give up the secrets of their old crimes to the magistrate.

The magistrate granted their request and heard their confessions.

One of the prisoners said: "I once broke into a temple called the Sairaku Temple and carried away a treasure from there, which I turned into cash for 120 *ryo* (*ryo* = old standard of Japanese money). With this I gambled and obtained about 500 *ryo*. Then I hired some prostitutes and have been driving a pretty good business keeping a brothel. No one has hitherto been aware of this old crime of mine. The present charge on which I have been cast into prison is that in a quarrel on slight provocation I broke the head of my adversary. The injury was not fatal, but the wounded fellow exaggerated the case and brought it before you, which consequently threw me into prison. I beg your honour to set me free now that I have confessed my old crime."

Then another prisoner confessed: "I was born in an eastern province. Thirteen years ago I murdered a man in my

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native place. I fled from there and came to live here. Since then I have been forging silver coins and passing them for my purchases. The charge which sent me to prison now is that I was keeping an escaped offender's surtout for him. I hope your honour will now set me free since I have thus confessed all my old crimes."

The chairman then said: "As for me I broke into a house six years ago and after tying the family to a pillar stole all thair gold and silver money. I then set the house on fire to destroy any traces that might betray me. But God knows how I suffered after that from sickness for seven years and became as nerveless as pulp. In all this woeful experience I spent nearly all the money that I had stolen and was reduced to my former condition of a chairman. And last came my latest misdeed which drove me to prison. I also crave the favour of the general pardon since I have confessed all."

The magistrate, thereupon, made inquiries into all these cases and the result was the confirmation of their depositions. Unfortunately for them, however, the period of the amnesty had expired, when these inquiries were finished, which indeed took a long time and of course they could not now hope for any extenuating influence in their favour. They lamented and cursed the day on which they were born. They were sentenced to death, the first two by crucifixion and the last by burning. Burning to death was a from of punishment for incendiarism in former days.

The famous Nakamise (small shops) newly erected after the great earthquake: in front of the Kwannon temple at Kaminari Gate, Asakusa, Tokyo.

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From the Japanese Press

Japanese-Russian Economic Alliance.—It is congratulatory that the Japanese-Russian agreement concerning North Saghalien kerosene oil and coal concessions was signed between their delegates on December 14, 1925.

On that occasion the Russian deputy stated that the convention would improve the two countries' friendship and economic relations and contribute much towards the promotion of peace in the Orient.

Mr. Nakazato, the Japanese deputy, said that as a result of the agreement, the present waste east coast of North Saghalien will be cultivated into a thriving place by the Japanese and will be returned to Russia as a civilized place of the north upon the termination of it.

The *Osaka Mainichi* commenting on these statements in its editorial of December 18, supports them and argues that supposing that the above hopes and objects are carried out satisfactorily, December 14, 1925 will be a important landmark in Japanese and Russian history.

The paper points out the urgent necessity of completing means of traffic between Japan and Russia. In North Saghalien, for instance, there is no means of traffic between it and the Japanese territory, but a primitive one, with which it is very hard to expect any economic cooperation between the two countries under the present convention, where as a railway from the northern end to a railway line in the Japanese territory will give North Saghalien a value many thousands times what it is valued at present, as it will open a way for the transportation of pulp wood to Japanese pulp works and will facilitate greatly the conveyance of kerosene from the east coast. Furthermore, the railway would serve to connect Moscow with the northern extremity of the Far Eastern Russian trritory through the Siberian, South Manchurian, Korean and Japanese railways.

If the railway should be extended westward to Vladivostock through Nikolaievsk with one line and direct from Nikolaievsk to the centre of Siberia with another line, to join the present Siberian railway, it would make the economic development of Siberia really remarkable. Japan and Russia must economically co-operate in Siberia and not simply in North Saghalien, in order to make the present convention the instrumentality of the greater peace of the Orient, as the Russian deputy rightly said.

The Dawn of an Economic Revival.—At the return of the New Year, the people began to speak gladly of the economic revival expected in the near future after a long spell of depression, mainly because of the unexpectedly favourable result of foreign trade in 1925, in addition to great progress in industrial readjustment, the slackness of money and the good crop of rice.

This optimistic sentiment is but natural, observes the *Chugai Shogyo* in its editorial of January 7, but it fails to see any such improvement as to ease the people's mind in every direction of the economic world, but simply a gleam of hope of such recovery.

Money deposits are increasing, but the advances are increasing more. Many industries are not yet completely readjusted, and even apparently settled ones are only able to make both ends meet by the benefit of an advance in their products due to the decline in foreign exchange.

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In foreign trade, the remarkable increase in last year's export trade was caused mainly by marked improvement in the raw silk and cotton trade. The activity of the raw silk trade was owing principally to American economic prosperity and that of the cotton trade to an extension of market due to a fall in the yen exchange. How long American economic activity will last is an unknown quantity.

At the same time, the foreign exchange cannot be expected to long remain low beneficially to the export trade, as it will come up in proportion to the recovery of trade. In order to ensure permanent activity of the export trade, the essential thing would be to fundamentally improve industry and to make its conditions of production better than those abroad, with more efforts than hitherto.

The paper regrets to note the relaxation of the popular feeling and the prevalence of too much optimistic sentiment rashly taking the place of the past extreme pessimism, as the result of indications of an economic and financial improvement shown since last year, after long stagnancy and uneasiness after the World War, intensified by the earthquake.

The people must be very cautious not to run recklessly into speculation at this moment in expectation of business prosperity, not only in the share market but in the general commodity market, which is feared may artificially inflate commodities, disturbing the economic world which is on the way to recovery, and reversing the industrial situation, which is being stabilized.

The paper earnestly desires the bankers, who hold the central power of economic activity, to exercise the utmost care as to the financing of business enterprises, supplying voluntarily funds to sound enterprises either for re-adjustment or for extension and being cautious against speculative feeling, under the direction of the financial authorities.

Foreign Trade in 1925.—Japan's foreign trade for 1925 was very prosperous and reached an unprecedentedly large amount. It is most gratifying for the national economy that the export trade increased by 460,000,000 yen, which lessened the unfavourable balance of foreign trade to 270,000,000 yen, decreasing 370,000,000 yen from the preceding year and proving the true improvement of foreign trade.

The amount of foreign trade does not of course represent the whole national economy, argues the *Chugai Shogyo* in its editorial of December 30. The degree to which a nation can be independent in its economic life, is largely different from foreign trade figures, and the amount of the excess of imports changes according to the conditions of the country. The result of foreign trade cannot, therefore, be taken in judging the economic influence of the country. In the existing complicated and advanced economic organization, however, any big country cannot rely upon perfectly self-sufficing economic life, and the severe international struggle for raw materials and the extension of markets makes the yearly result of foreign trade directly affect the country's economic activities and credit and reflect on the rate of exchange as an unavoidable consequence.

Japan being small and lacking resources, has to get a large amount of foreign raw materials and to refine them, giving employment to people and supplying necessaries of national life, while exporting these products in return for the raw

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materials, balancing foreign trade and maintaining and developing national economy.

The growth of exports is, therefore, naturally followed by that of imports, it being very hard to achieve simply an increase in exports, while imports are checked. It is unavoidable that raw cotton, wool, iron and kerosene oil, indispensable industrial raw materials for Japan, are imported pretty largely.

In 1925, raw cotton worth 870,000-000 yen was imported. This was rather too large, for cotton yarn and cotton fabrics were exported only to the value of 500,000,000 yen, falling short of the raw cotton valued at 370,000,000 yen which was consumed at home. This excessive domestic consumption must be economized or more cotton must be exported.

The paper is dissatisfied to note that no goods other than raw silk and silk fabrics increased markedly on the export side in 1925, while Japan has not a few special products such as earthen and porcelain wares, curios, toys, etc. for which market may be extended largely overseas.

Anyhow, the paper rejoices in the great improvement in foreign trade in 1925, which is stimulating the recovery of Japan's credit abroad and the revival of the economic world. There is still much room left for increasing exports and preventing foreign luxury imports.

Foreign trade improved considerably in 1925. Still it had a balance of 270,000-000 yen against us, besides 76,000,000 yen balancing unfavourably in our territories. The paper thinks it necessary for the Government and people to cooperate for more improvement.

Disarmament.—With regard to an international disarmament preliminary conference to be held in February, 1926, the *Osaka Mainichi* infers that the Powers have done nothing substantial in preparation for it, each simply watching the others. This attitude is unsatisfactory, when compared with that shown by the the Powers before the Washington Conference in 1921, which was awaited with great interest and enthusiasm.

The American Government has not yet made its attitude clear in regard to the question, in which she ought to be most interested. This is one reason for the Powers' attitude of comparative indifference. Another reason is that the next conference will have for discussion military and aerial armament limitation, which would have an extensive effect on the European Powers.

The paper wonders in its editorial of December 24 why President Coolidge has been ambiguous in his attitude towards the question, sometimes speaking in its support and at other times against it. It seems to the paper that his actions are guided entirely by his parliamentary policy, and the situation in the Congress. This may be necessary, for unless with the previous approval of Congress, it will be impossible for America to put in practice the decisions at the conference.

It is, however, perhaps his duty, the paper considers, to make endeavours for hastening an opportunity for disarmament among the Powers, in support of the League of Nations' committee and in realization of his past advovacy of the necessity of a second disarmament conference, without regard to the situation in Congress.

If there is a reason which makes it impossible for America to join the conference, the League should advance along the already decided line. If America cannot be expected to join it or will simply join it as an observer not responsible for the carrying out of decisions, and the Powers other than European are not so enthusiastic about it, the paper suggests that the conference be confined to the European Powers to arrange for military and aerial armament limitation, relieving them of the cause of their greatest trouble. The American army is too small to be compared with those of European countries, and Japan is limiting her Army herself, ahead of other powers. The European continental Powers are, however, under the utmost necessity of limiting their military power.

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The Mitsui Bank,
LIMITED

Capital Subscribed . .	Yen 100,000,000
Capital Paid-up . .	60,000,000
Reserve Fund (Sept., 1925)	51,400,000

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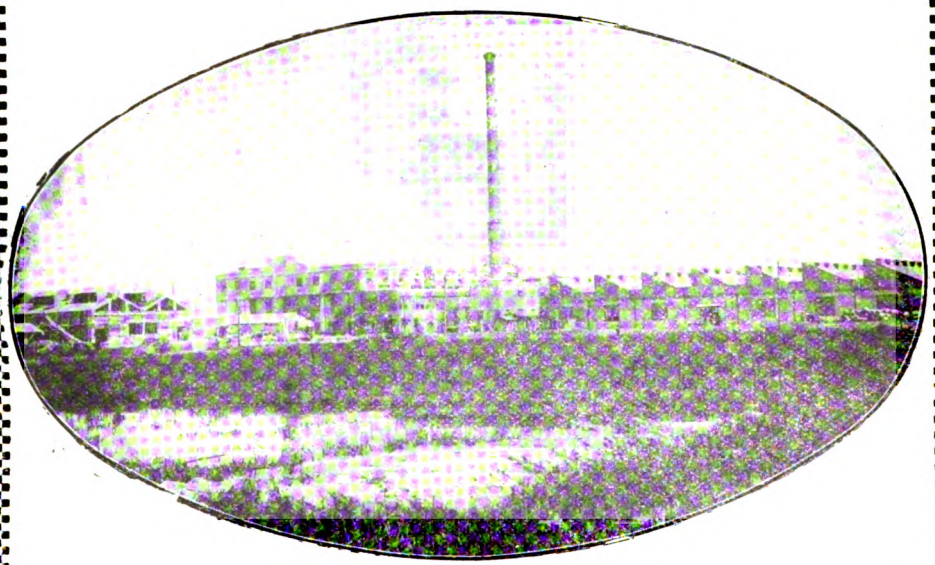

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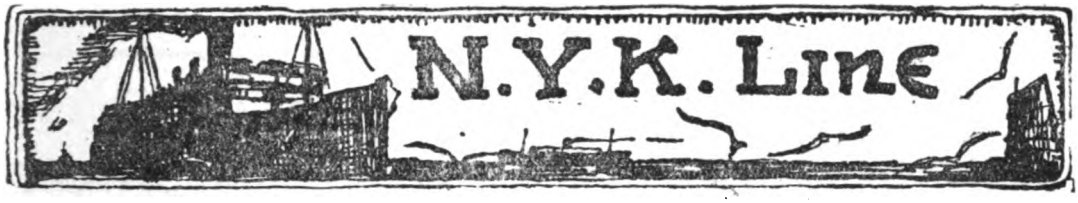

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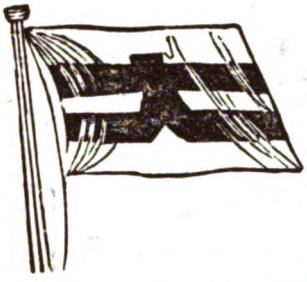

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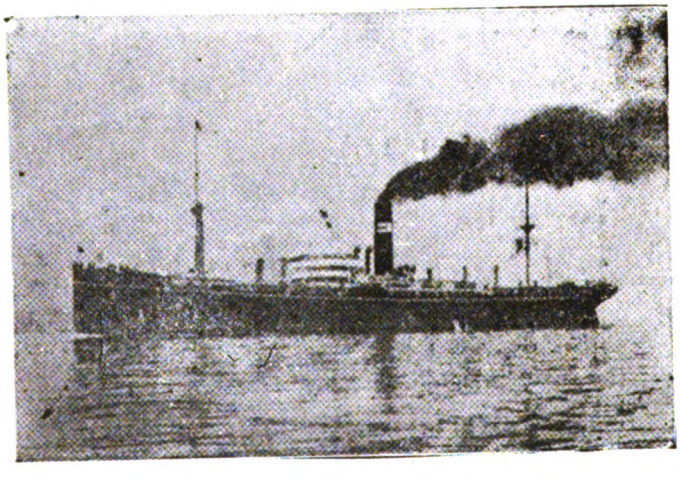

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